

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJ: AFGHAN AND SOVIET STATEMENTS DRAW PRESS ATTENTION
IN IRAN

REF: TEHRAN 4467

1. FALLOUT FROM AFGHAN COUP CONTINUES TO DRAW MEDIA ATTENTION.
LOCAL PRESS MAY 11 CARRIED WIRE SERVICE STORIES ON PRESIDENT
TARAKI'S "FIRST MAJOR POLICY STATEMENT" EMPHASIZING THAT THE
NEW REGIME WISHES "TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND FRIENDLY RELATIONS
WITH THE GREAT NEIGHBOR IN THE NORTH, THE SOVIET UNION." FACT
THAT MAY 9 SPEECH WAS DELIVERED IN PUSHTU LANGUAGE ALSO NOTED
HERE.

2. JOURNAL DE TEHRAN'S MAY 11 EDITORIAL WAS DEVOTED TO
COMMENT ON USSR AMBASSADOR'S INTERVIEW IN ISLAMABAD. ENTITLED
"PAKISTAN MUST QUIT CENTO" THE EDITORIAL CHARACTERIZES
THE AMBASSADOR'S TONE AS THREATENING WHEN HE REPROACHED
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PAKISTAN AS "BEING THE FIREND OF OUR ENEMIES AND THE
ENEMY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE SOVIET UNION." EDITORIAL
FURTHER QUOTES THE AMBASSADOR AS SAYING THAT "FRIENDLY
RELATIONS EXIST BETWEEN OUR COUNTRY AND THE TWO NEIGHBORS
OF PAKISTAN, INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN, AND SUCH RELATIONS COULD
BE ESTABLISHED WITH PAKIST IF IT QUILTS CENTO."
EDITORIAL NOTES THAT THE USSR "HAS MULTIPLIED ITS EFFORTS

DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS TOWARD THE THREE REGIONAL MEMBERS OF CENTO TO MAKE THEM ABANDON THEIR POLICY AGAINST THE INFLUENCE OF THE USSR IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ADJACENT REGIONS. THE EFFORTS OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WERE DIRECTED PARTICULARLY AGAINST TURKEY BECAUSE OF THE DISSENTION BETWEEN THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT AND THE U.S. OVER THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO. PRESSURE EXERCISED BY THE USSR ON TURKEY IN THIS AREA HAS RESULTED IN THE LIFTING OF THE U.S. EMBARGO. THE AFGHAN COUP REPRESENTS FOR SOVIET DIPLOMACY AN EXCELLENT TRUP TO PRESSURE PAKISTAN....THE INHERENT WEAKNESS OF THE PAKISTAN STATE ORGANIZATION, AGGRAVATED BY POLITICAL INITIATIVES OF THE PRESENT LEADERS, IS ANOTHER 'TRUMP' FOR THE USSR." EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, "FOR THE MOMENT IRANIAN DIPLOMACY REMAINS PRUDENT TOWARD KABUL. THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR HAS RETURNED TO HIS POST AND HIS CONTACTS WITH THE NEW LEADERS WILL PERMIT THE GOI TO STUDY THE POSITION WHICH IT WILL ADOPT TOWARD ITS EASTERN NEIGHBOR AND TO RESUME ITS FORMER INITIATIVES SUPPORTING PEACE IN THIS REGION AND ESPECIALLY THE NON-INTERVENTION OF THE (MAJOR) POWERS."

3. COMMENT: PRESS REPORTS CARRIED LOCALLY CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE THREATENING CHARACTER OF NEW REGIME TO BASIC IRANIAN INTERESTS. SOVIET INTERVIEW PLAYED UP IN JOURNAL DE TEHERAN APPEARS TO BE PRESS STATEMENT MADE BY AMBASSADOR AZIMOV IN APRIL PRIOR TO AFGHAN COUP BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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ONLY PUBLISHED IN EARLY MAY BY URDU ISLAMABAD WEEKLY NEWSPAPER. COINCIDING WITH COUP, THIS INTERVIEW HAS SERVED UP "ONE-TWO PUNCH" TO IRANIAN OBSERVERS. SULLIVAN

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